

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /162 W

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R 011415Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2928

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MO, SS, IR, PK, IN, CH

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH UNFP/CASABLANCA LEADERSHIP

REF: CASABLANCA 664 (#)

1. AMBASSADOR NEUMANN, ACCCOMPANIED BY CONSUL GENERAL
BRUBECK AND LABOFF, LUNCHEON WITH UNFP/CASABLANCA LEADER
ABDALLAH IBRAHIM AND UNION MAROCAINE DU TRAVAIL (UMT) SECGEN
MAHJOUB BEN SEDDIK. LUNCH WAS AT BEN SEDDIK'S INITIATIVE
AND WAS HOSTED BY HIM. COMMENT: IBRAHIM IS ONLY
SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL LEADER TO REFUSE TO TRAVEL ABROAD TO
PRESENT MOROCCO'S CASE ON SPANISH SAHARA.

2. CONVERSATION WAS DOMINATED BY SAHARA ISSUE. IBRAHIM
AND BEN SEDDIK REITERATED THEIR POSITION OUTLINED REFTEL.
BOTH STRONGLY SUPPORT MOROCCAN CLAIM TO SAHARA, BUT OBJECT
TO SEVERAL ASPECTS GOM POLICY. IBRAHIM INSISTS THAT ISSUE
IS NOT "DECOLONIZATION" BUT RATHER "LIBERATION" OF OCCUPIED
TERRITORY. HE BELIEVES GOM HAS FAILED TO DO ITS DIPLOMATIC
HOMEWORK BY NOT LINING UP ARAB SUPPORT IN ADVANCE. FINALLY,
HE BELIEVES THAT SENDING OF POLITICAL LEADERS ABROAD AS
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EMISSARIES IS A TRAVESTY. HE REFUSED TO PLAY THE EMISSARY

ROLE, HE SAID, BECAUSE IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOM ALONE TO SEEK INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. IN ADDITION, HE WAS UNWILLING TO ACT AS AN AGENT OF THE GOM WHEN HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON ITS INTENDED STRATEGY AND NO DECISION-MAKING ROLE. BOTH IBRAHIM AND BEN SEDDIK STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF LONG-STANDING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN DURING FUSS OVER SAHARA.

3. IBRAHIM ADVANCED THESIS THAT US, IN REMAINING NEUTRAL WAS IN EFFECT SUPPORTING STATUS QUO. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED COMPLEXITIES OF PROBLEM FROM AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW WHICH IBRAHIM RECEIVED SYMPATHETICALLY.

BRUBECK

NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE CASABLANCA 664 AS RECEIVED.

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